

Appl. No. 09/837,503
Amdt. dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Office action of May 21, 2003

Remarks/Arguments:

This paper is submitted responsive to the Official Action mailed May 21, 2003 and having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 21, 2003. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure due to informalities, and the Examiner's suggestions have been made in the present amendment.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings for several informalities which have been corrected. No new matter has been added, and it is believed that the present amendment resolves all informalities raised in the aforesaid action.

Superfluous reference numeral 6 of the drawings has been deleted, and superfluous reference number 16 from the specification has also been deleted. A lead line has been added for reference numeral 34 as requested. Upon approval of the propose drawing correction, formal drawings will be submitted incorporation the changes.

The Examiner had rejected claims 1-11 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, pointing to language in claims 1 and 5. These claims have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns, and it is believed that all claims are now proper under 35 USC 112.

The Examiner had rejected claims 1-2, 5 and 11 as anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by U.S. Patent 4,473,622 to Chludzunski et al. (the '622 patent). The Examiner had also rejected claims 3-4 and 7-8 and 9-10 as obvious based upon the '622 patent with several other secondary references. Finally, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 contained allowable subject matter.

By the present amendment, claim 6 has been redrafted in independent form and is submitted to be in condition for allowance. Also, new claim 17 has been added and is believed

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to capture the subject matter of claim 6 in a claim of different scope, and likewise to define patentably over the art of record.

As to independent claim 1, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested. The '622 patent introduces moisture to the streams in question utilizing water transfer membranes as set forth, for example, at column 3, lines 57-59. This is dramatically different from the subject matter of the present invention wherein water is fed to one of the two conduits mentioned in the claims in a controlled manner for cooling the stream to a desired temperature. A preferred embodiment involves atomizing the water during such injection. It is respectfully submitted that the membranes used in the '622 patent to humidify the stream and thereby provide moisture required for the shift reactor can hardly be considered to meet the feed of water to a stream as set forth in the claim1 for the purposes of cooling.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and all claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, are allowable over the art of record.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

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It is believed that no additional fee is due in connection with this response. If, however, any fee is due, please charge same to deposit account number 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 13, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on Aug. 21, 2003.


George A. Coury